(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). For reasons of protocol/ security, certain dignitaries including President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Heads of Foreign Countries/ Governments, Chief Justice of India, Special Protection Group Protectees etc. are allowed to take their vehicles upto the airport during their arrival/departure by air.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Allotment of Stalls/Shops at the Platforms

3002. COL. RAO RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government allot stalls/shops etc. at the platforms of railway stations;

(b) if so, the guidelines laid down in this regard;

(c) whether any preference is given to war widows, ex-servicemen, handicapped, SC/ST and people of weaker sections;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the number of Railway stalls/shops allotted to war-widows/Ex. servicemen, handicapped, SC/ST and people of weaker sections at different railway stations during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(g) the number of applications pending with the Union Government for approval for the railway stations of Gurgaon, Rewari and Mohindergarh districts of Haryana;

(h) the steps being taken by the Union Government to take decision expeditiously on these applications; and

(i) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Catering/vending stalls are allotted by zonal Railways by inviting applications through press notification from experienced and reputed caterers as per extant guidelines issued by Railway Board.

(c) and (d). At roadside stations preference is given to SC/ST applicants.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(g) to (i). 24 applications for one tea stall at Patodi Road Railway Station and 6 applications for one barber shop at Gurgaon Railway station have been received by the Railways. These are being processed and there is no delay.

Gold Mines

3003. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's gold reserves are depleting day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any study has been conducted for sufficient exploration of gold production by Indian companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any blueprint has been prepared for bulk sampling, analysis of large amount of rock samples and preparation of qeochemical maps for open cast mining, reducing the production cost and providing employment opportunities to the local people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Minerals are non-renewable resources and individual deposits get exhausted due to exploitation. However, exploration activities continue to locate new deposits.

(c) and (d). Hutti Gold Mines Ltd. (HGML) have undertaken further exploration in their lease hold areas and have identified about 24.2 million tonnes at a grade of 4.04 gm/tonne. They have also identified a mineable resource of about 3.3 million tonnes at a grade of 2.5 gm/tonne at the Ajjanhalli Gold Project Area.

(e) and (f). Detailed exploration for gold involves bulk sampling analysis of large amount of rock samples with preparation of Geochemical maps for developing an open cast mining plan. such facilities are available in the country.

Domestic and Foreign Visits of Correspondents

3004. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Press Information Bureau is discriminating with the newspapers in Hindi and other regional languages;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of correspondents alongwith their respective newspapers who accompanied the President, Vice-President and the Prime Minister on their domestic and foreign visits during 1995;

(d) whether some particular newspapers are often given chances. to accompany the above dignitories on their aforesaid visits; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?